Woman kidnapper sentenced to life imprisonment

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Wednesday sentenced a woman to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs500,000 after finding her guilty of kidnapping a three-year-old Norwegian child from a local shopping mall, while her co-accused, Haroon Khan, was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

The verdict was announced by Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra through a 14-page detailed judgment.

According to the prosecution, the complainant had arrived in Pakistan from Norway along with her family.

The court noted that CCTV footage from the shopping mall showed the child, Azlan, leaving the premises with two women. Later, the kidnapped child was recovered from Mehrabadi along with accused Shaista. The judgment stated that Shaista was positively identified in the CCTV footage through verification of her identity using Nadra data.

The court observed that the prosecution successfully proved the kidnapping charge, adding that there was no evidence of any prior dispute or bad relationship between the complainant and the accused.

Although the accused alleged a quarrel with the complainant, the court held that she failed to substantiate the claim.

Based on the CCTV footage and recovery of the child, the court concluded that the offence of kidnapping had been established beyond reasonable doubt against Shaista. However, the court acquitted co-accused Haroon Khan after finding evidence against him insufficient.

The case was registered in May 2025 at Margalla Police Station under relevant kidnapping provisions following the abduction of three-year-old Azlan from a local shopping mall.

Two buried alive while searching for gold

TAXILA: Two persons were killed when a mound of soil collapsed while they were searching for placer gold along the banks of the Indus River near Sojhanda village in Attock on Wednesday, local sources said.

According to preliminary information, the incident occurred when a mound of loose soil and rocks suddenly collapsed at an informal placer gold search site along the riverbank, burying the two workers under the debris.

Both victims died on the spot due to the impact and suffocation before any rescue operation could be launched. The deceased were identified as Tariq Khan and Waheed Khan, both residents of Attock district. Locals said the men were engaged in unregulated gold placer extraction activities along the Indus River, a risky practice often carried out without protective equipment or safety arrangements.

Area residents and other volunteers rushed to the site after the incident and managed to recover the bodies from the rubble. The local administration was informed, and legal formalities were initiated.

It may be mentioned here that such incidents have raised serious concerns about the safety of labourers involved in hazardous informal mining along riverbanks. Locals have urged the authorities to take preventive measures to avoid further loss of life. Official sources said further investigation into the incident is under way. — Correspondent

CDA begins pre-construction work on two dams to address water shortage

Shahdara Dam to supply Islamabad exclusively, while Dotara Dam to serve Rawalpindi also

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Following a recent go-ahead by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, city managers have started pre-construction activities for two dams aimed at overcoming the growing water shortage.

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) plans to begin construction of two new dams, including Shahdara Dam, which will exclusively serve Islamabad, and Dotara Dam, which will be shared with Rawalpindi.

Presiding over a meeting on Wednesday, CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa said the construction of both dams was of utmost importance for permanently resolving the water shortage in the twin cities. He emphasised that both projects should be completed on a priority basis.

"Ensuring an uninterrupted water supply in the federal capital Islamabad is among our top priorities," he said.

During a briefing on the Shahdara Dam, the CDA chief was informed that the feasibility study for the project had been completed, declaring the site highly suitable for dam construction. The meeting was told that consultant NesPak has initiated work on the detailed design of the project.

It was decided that teams from Wapda and consultant NesPak would soon jointly visit the Shahdara Dam site to review the geotechnical investigation and hydrological studies.

The dam will be built on the Shahdara stream in the Margalla Hills and will have the capacity to supply 10 million gallons per day (mgd) to Islamabad residents. CDA officials said the estimated cost of the project is around Rs4 billion, and construction work could begin within three months. They added that the project could be completed within the year and would be financed through CDA's own funds.

The meeting also discussed the Dotara Dam in detail and decided that this project would also be executed on a priority basis. Officials said the dam would be constructed upstream of Khanpur Dam and would have the capacity to supply 72 mgd of water.

They said the project would require massive funding of approximately Rs40 billion, excluding land acquisition costs. Therefore, the federal and Punjab governments would be requested to provide funding, as the project would cater to the needs of both Islamabad and Rawalpindi residents. Officials added that the government aims to complete the project by December 2027.

The meeting, chaired by the CDA chief, urged an early start to both projects. It was attended by CDA Board Member Planning and Design Dr Khalid Hafiz, Member Finance Tahir Naeem, representatives from WAPDA, the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Rawalpindi Cantonment Board, Punjab Small Dams, and senior officers from Islamabad Water CDA.

According to a CDA press release, during the briefing on the Dotara Dam project, it was informed that Wapda is working on the feasibility study, and the chairman directed that it be completed at the earliest.

Quoting the CDA chief, the press release said timely implementation according to set timelines must be ensured for the completion of both projects. Mr Randhawa stressed that the construction process for both dams should be finalised quickly through effective coordination among all relevant departments.

It is pertinent to note that on January 9, a meeting chaired by the Interior Minister and attended by Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Syed Tauqir Hussain Shah, along with officers from CDA, Rawalpindi authorities and the Punjab government, had decided to construct the two dams.

Following that decision, city managers of the twin cities, Wapda and other concerned officials attended Wednesday's meeting held at CDA headquarters.

Out of over 160 highrises, only one fulfills fire safety regulations: survey

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: Out of over 160 high rise buildings in Rawalpindi district – only one building fulfills the criteria of fire safety regulations set by the government and it has its own crew that can undertake evacuation procedures with one minute emergency call.

On the other hand, following the Gul Plaza Karachi worst fire disaster, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz has ordered a detailed survey and installation of fire hydrants in high rise , while all sensitive areas have been marked and re-evaluated and the relevant authorities have been requested to ensure compliance with fire safety provisions.

The only high rise building located alongside The Mall is meeting the key fire safety regulations set by government such as having fire hydrants, the emergency exits during an event of fire. Besides the building also has fire alarms and detection and sprinkling system, in addition to having their own team who can conduct evacuation within a minute after an emergency call.

District Emergency Officer (DEO) Rescue 1122 Rawalpindi Sibghat Ullah said while talking to Dawn the Rawalpindi station has 19 fire vehicles with more than 300 fire fighters who are well trained and equipped to handle any event.

"The rescue 1122 firefighters are also having life detection cameras and also keeping "acoustic listening device" with them, the DEO said and added: "There are three grades of fire, 1,2 and 3. Water is the best to fight fire of any grade."

He said according to building safety regulations, buildings should have exit stairs, external fire hydrants, encroachment free, having fire extinguishers, free detection and alarm system, internal Hydrant and Sprinklers system and to conduct regular fire drills.

The building safety grading has also been done such as A,B, C and D, while the buildings which have no fire safety provisions are declared as unsafe buildings. He said that 127 buildings which were not meeting the fire safety regulations set by the government had been issued the first notice to fulfill the fire safety regulations.

Of the 127 buildings which fulfilled safety measures, the remaining 82 buildings were issued second notice; later the remaining 16 were issued the third notice to comply with the fire safety requirements in line with their category.

Now there are only two buildings which are issued final and third notice, he added.

He said that after the third notice is ignored, a final notice is issued and then recommendation is made to the relevant department to seal those buildings.

The DEO further said that whenever a layout plan is submitted with the RDA, it is forwarded to the Rescue 1122 for examining whether the fire safety regulation set by government was followed or not after that the NOC is issued and later the building is examined before issuing a completion certificate.

"Every high-rise structure should have its own emergency response team. And, most importantly, the building should have emergency exits with emergency lights installed," said DEO Sibghat Ullah, adding that the Rescue 1122 Punjab team is the only one in South Asia that is certified.

While expressing concern over the closure of gates erected at Bank Road and now the closure of traffic with gates is underway for Raja Bazar, he said that he had a letter to the City Traffic Police and RMC to ensure the availability of keys of locks of those gates to ensure their timely response and access in case of any emergency.

People, especially the traders of Saddar and Raja Bazaar have already been protesting against the closure of Bank Road and Raja Bazaar for traffic and demanding to allow the traffic movement as it has badly affected their business.

Besides, there are many commercial buildings in the city which are not having proper exits, and some buildings are having exits which have been encroached by shopkeepers making it hard to exit. Recently, the survey of such buildings had also been conducted by the relevant departments but the situation has not improved.

Caretaker GB minister rejects Indian propaganda

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Ghulam Abbas on Wednesday rejected what he termed Indian propaganda, saying the people of GB have always been loyal to Pakistan and have consistently struggled to become a formal part of the country.

Speaking at the 'Meet the Press' programme at the National Press Club, along with GB chief minister's spokesperson Shabbir Mir, it was highlighted that Gilgit-Baltistan separated from India without major violence, as the people of the region voluntarily chose to hoist the Pakistani flag. He was accompanied by NPC President Azhar Jatoi, President GB Journalists Forum Abrar Hussain Astori, NPC Governing Body member Jafar Ali Balti, and former RIUJ president Abid Abbasi. "The Indian propaganda and the statements of Narendra Modi claiming that the people of GB are protesting against Pakistan to join India have become a laughing stock in the region," Mr Abbas said, adding that "this narrative is not even being accepted by the international community."

Mr Mir said that while separatist movements exist in many parts of the world, there is a strong voice and movement in Gilgit-Baltistan demanding that the region be made part of Pakistan and declared the country's fifth province. Highlighting the priorities of the interim government, Mr Abbas said its first priority was to hold the upcoming elections in a "free and transparent" manner. He added that he believed in media freedom and that the system would remain open to scrutiny by the press.

He said all political parties would be given a level playing field to participate in the upcoming general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Responding to a question, Mr Abbas said efforts would be made to resolve issues related to internet coverage and information technology in collaboration with the federal Ministry of Information Technology. "The caretaker chief minister has given clear directives to identify the problems faced by the people, such as electricity, internet and other issues, and to make every possible effort to resolve them," he said, adding that the government would also ensure health and welfare measures for journalists.

The caretaker information minister said the government's term ended in November 2025, after which Justice (R) Yar Muhammad was appointed as caretaker chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan.

He added that the caretaker government was making full efforts to address key issues in the region, including maintaining public order and resolving electricity shortages.

It was further stated that the chief minister of GB had formed committees to address these matters and was personally monitoring their progress. — Kalbe Ali

PBM, Nacta sign accord to aid victims of terrorism

By Bakhtawar Mian

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) and National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta) on Wednesday signed an MoU to collaborate for supporting victims of terrorism.

The signing ceremony took place during a seminar conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The MoU establishes a collaborative framework to extend support and care for the families suffering from the consequences of terrorist attacks, through rehabilitation, medical care, educational assistance, livelihood support and other reintegration services for the beneficiaries.

Addressing the ceremony, Managing Director of PBM, Shaheen Khalid, emphasised that through joint and coordinated efforts, both organisations can ensure meaningful and enduring support for the persons affected by the act of terrorism.

"Victims of terrorism suffer immense physical, emotional, and economic hardships. This MoU reflects our shared commitment to restoring dignity, hope, and stability to those who have suffered due to violence," he remarked.

He appreciated Nacta's central role in implementing counter terrorism strategy and linking policy frameworks with welfare delivery mechanisms. National Coordinator, Nacta Jawad Ahmed Dogar, expressed his gratitude to PBM Chief for extending continued support to the victims of terrorism.

He said that Nacta will coordinate with PBM to facilitate consultations with federal and provincial stakeholders for developing beneficiary criteria, standard operating procedures and implementation guidelines for the fund.

Both sides reaffirmed their dedication to standing with victims of terrorism and working collectively toward a more resilient and compassionate society.

LIAQUAT UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES
JAMSHORO, SINDH-PAKISTAN

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Applications on prescribed forms (Online) are invited for admissions in following vacant slots of FCPS-II courses/ Programmes for the Academic Session 2026 at **PNS Shifa Hospital, Karachi.**

Sr. No.	Name of Course
01	FCPS-II General Medicine
02	FCPS-II General Surgery
03	FCPS-II Psychiatry
04	FCPS-II Dermatology
05	FCPS-II Plastic Surgery
06	FCPS-II Cardiac Surgery
07	FCPS-II Paediatrics Surgery
08	FCPS-II Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
09	FCPS-II Radiology
10	FCPS-II Gynaecology & Obstetrics

General Information:

- Guidelines for the students for eligibility criteria and fees structure are available on website of the University i.e www.lumhs.edu.pk
- The Postgraduate Directorate however reserves the right of any modification in the schedule/ course due to unforeseen circumstances.
- No separate call letters will be sent to the candidate for entry test/interviews, candidates are advised to visit the website for further updates. Incomplete application forms in any manner will not be entertained.
- In-eligible candidates will not be allowed to appear in entry test/examination.

Schedule for Admission:

- Application form can be filled & submitted online from University website with effect from **22.01.2026 to 25.01.2026.** No Application form will be entertained after due date.
- Entry Test will be conducted on **26.01.2026** at New Building Examination Department, LUMHS, Jamshoro.
- For further information / query, please contact: Directorate Postgraduate Medical Centre, LUMHS Jamshoro Tel: 022-9213322 & 9213324.

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Karachi Metropolitan University invites applications for the following positions:

Positions	Scope of Work	Eligibility Criteria
Controller of Examinations Contractual/Regular Age: Max 55 years	The Controller of Examinations (CoE) shall be responsible for overseeing all exam-related matters, including administering exams, processing results, verifying documents, and issuing transcripts, degrees and certificates. The CoE's role is to create a technology-driven, efficient, and transparent system that ensures reliable evaluation procedures and prevents unfair practices. Key duties include planning and scheduling exams, maintaining student records, and ensuring compliance with institutional policies. The CoE will also be responsible for coordinating with faculties and other internal/external authorities for smooth exam-related operations. This role requires attention to detail, initiative, organization and a commitment to upholding institutional integrity.	18-year master's degree with a minimum of five years of demonstrated experience in the examination systems of universities and sound knowledge of the rules, regulations, and legal frameworks governing both annual and semester examination systems.
Manager Procurement Contractual Age: Max 55 years	The Manager Procurement shall be responsible for managing and overseeing all procurement activities of the university in compliance with SPPRA rules and institutional policies. The role of Manager Procurement is to prepare tenders, bidding documents, evaluations, purchase orders, and ensure transparent, competitive, and cost-effective purchasing of goods, works, and services. The Manager Procurement shall also be responsible for maintaining and updating vendor databases, contract records, procurement documentation, and coordinating with finance, audit and relevant departments for smooth procurement operations. This role requires risk management, strong negotiation, financial acumen, technical proficiency, compliance and ethics.	Master's degree in Business Administration, Supply Chain Management, Commerce, or a related discipline from HEC-recognized institution, with a minimum of five years of relevant experience in procurement, supply chain, or materials management, including 3 years in a supervisory or managerial role within a university, government, semi-autonomous or autonomous organization. Demonstrated working knowledge of SPPRA rules and strong proficiency in MS Office are essential.

Instructions:

- Applicants already in government service should apply through proper channel with No Objection Certificate.
- The University reserves the right to cancel the advertised position at any stage without assigning any reason.
- Applications shall be accepted through courier service for the interview.
- No TA/DA shall be admissible for appearing in the interview.
- Incomplete applications shall be rejected.

Send Applications To:

Interested candidates must fill out the application form at the link: **https://thekmu.edu.pk/current-jobs/** and also submit the complete application in hard copy along with latest CV, CNIC and domicile copy, one recent passport size photograph, copies of the transcripts, degrees and certificates, experience documents, and two reference letters no later than **01st February 2026**. Each application must be accompanied by a pay order of Rs. 3000 (non-refundable) in favour of **"Karachi Metropolitan University"**. Applications should be submitted to the following address:

THE REGISTRAR
Karachi Metropolitan University
E-mail: career@thekmu.edu.pk

111-111-568 / 36570001 / +92-331-2228-KMU(568) www.thekmu.edu.pk ST-2, Block-M, North Nazimabad Town, Karachi.

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02) BRT/QT/TD-32/2025-26. Consutruction of Metallic Shed as per Drawing, BOQ and Scope of Work mentioned in the Tender Document for storage and other misc purposes for BME Site Khuzdar Balochistan Pakistan.

Bidding Procedure:	Single Stage (One Envelope) PPRA Base
Tender Document Value:	PKR 5,000/- (Five Thousand) each
Procurement of Tender Document:	Pay Order or Online (Allied Bank Ltd) PK29ABPA0010018307500017
Value of Bid Money:	02% (Two Percent) of total bid value
Tender Docs Collection & Bid Submission Place:	BME House, 3B & 8B Model Town, Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan
Tender Docs Collection Date:	(22-01-2026 to 30-01-2026) Working Hrs (09:00 AM - 05:00 PM) From Mon-Fri
Bid Submission Date:	On or before 06-02-2026 at 03:00 pm
Bid Opening Date:	06-02-2026 at 03:30 pm

Tender # & Item Details Must Be Mentioned On The Envelope.

No Bid Will Be Accepted Without Bid Money. BME Reserves Right To Accept/Reject Any Or All Bids As Per Provision Of PPRA Rules.

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